two of the. demands related to increase in trie procurement price of sugarcane and payment of arrears.

(b) The Central Government fixes, under the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, the statutory minimum price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories. For 1986-87 and 1987-88 seasons, the minimum prices respectively are Rs. 17.00 and Rs. 18.00 per quintal, linked to 8.5 per cent recovery. These are not procurement prices. They are the floor prices below which no sugar factory can pay. In actual practice, the growers have been getting prices much higher than the statutory minimum. For .example, the growers in Uttar Pradesh are getting a price of Rs. 24 to Rs. 25 per quintal, in Bihar Rs. 24 to Rs. 24.50- per , quintal, in Punjab Rs. 24 to Rs. 27 per quintal, in Haryana Rs. 24 to Rs. 28 per quintal, in Karnataka Rs. 22.50 to Rs. 29.00 per quintal. As regards clearance of arrears, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.who have the necessary powers and field organizations to enforce the same. The Central Govern ment has been requesting the State Gov ernments from time to time to take steps for having the payments cleared expedi tiously,

For the 1985-86 seasons, only Rs. 4.9 crores remained to be cleared as on 15-1-1987 out of the total cane price of about Rs. 1640 crores.

Import of white cement by Nafed

1203. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact .that NAFED had imported white cement during 1984-85; if so, what was the quantity and at what rate;

(b) what are the items that NAFED generally import;

(c) whether white cement is ons of the above items which NAFED usally import and how many times NAFED had impor ted white cement;

(d) whether NAFED is not importing this item regularly, if so, the' provision under which NAFED had imponed this item; and

(e) how much profit or loss NAFED made on this transaction?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G.S. DHILLON): (a) NAFED ' imported 2,500 tonnes of white cement during 1984-85 policy period at the rate of US $135.50 per tonne (C&F Bombay).

(b) NAFED imports a variety of items such as Nutmeg, Mace, Pulses, dry fruits, cloves, fresh fruit, 'harevest combines & tractors's spare parts, ball-bearing, PVC resins, etc.

(c) NAFED has so far imported white cement in 1984-85 only.

(d) NAFED as a recognised Export House was issued an addition.il licence for import in 1983-84 as an incentive against exports; and it imported white cement under the scheme.

(e) Pending settlement of a dispute involving sales transactions, the . accounts relating to the import of white cement have not been finalised. .

Public complaints tinder new Consumers' Protection Act

1204. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH
SHRl TALARI MANOHAR;

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a revolutionary new Consumers' Protection Aot for goods and services has come into effect 'as reported in the 'Hindustan limes' of the 1st February, 1987; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Five Magisterial inquiries covering public complaints and losses due to failure of goods and services are pending in Delhi alone and if so, what corrective steps have been proposed in this regard under the above Act?